

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL NAPLES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4227

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IT

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL TRIEST

AMCONSUL TURIN

AMCONSUL PALERMO

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SUBJECT; DC AND PCI COOPERATE TO FORM AVELLINO GIUNTA

1. ON THE EVE OF THE CONVENING OF THE DC NATIONAL COUNCIL, THE AVELLINO PROVINCIAL DC HAS CONFIRMED AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE PCI SIMILAR TO THAT MADE IN VENICE. A BICOLOR DC-PSI PROVINCIAL GIUNTA WAS FORMED IN AVELLINO ON JANUARY 30 WITH COMMUNIST COUNCILORS

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ABSTAINING BY VOTING "BLANK BALLOTS." THE SEVEN MAN GIUNTA (FIVE DC, TWO PSI) IS THE FIRST FORMED IN THE PROVINCE SINCE THE NOVEMBER 17-18 ELECTIONS. FORMATION OF THE GIUNTA WAS PRECEDED BY AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO GIUNTA PARTNERS AND THE AVELLINO PCI WHICH ASSURES COMMUNIST EXTERNAL SUPPORT OR ABSTENTION ON VOTES ON GIUNTA PROGRAMS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

2. THE INITIATIVE FOR SEEKING COMMUNIST EXTERNAL SUPPORT CAME FROM AVELLINO PROVINCIAL DC LEADERS REPRESENTING THE "SINISTRA DI BASE" CURRENT. AVELLINO IS THE POWER-BASE OF CIRIACO DE MITA, PRINCIPAL
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NATIONAL "LA BASE" LEADER,WHO IN RECENT WEEKS HAS BEEN OUTSPOKENLY

CRITICAL OF DC GENERAL SECRETARY AMINTORE FANFANI'S STEWARDSHIP OF THE PARTY. ON JANUARY 16 FANFANI HAD CALLED AVELLINO DC PROVINCIAL SECRETARY GIUSEPPE PISANO TO ROME IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISSUADE HIM FROM ALLOWING THE AVELLINO DC TO CONTINUE ON ITS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED PATH OF COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS, BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. UNABLE TO CONTROL THE SITUATION, FANFANI HOPED AT LEAST TO MINIMIZE THE DAMAGE TO THE NATIONAL PARTY BY PREVAILING ON PISANO TO POSTPONE A VOTE ON FORMING A GIUNTA UNTIL THE NATIONAL COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS WERE CONCLUDED. FANFANI'S ELEVENTH HOUR TELEGRAM TO THE DC PROVINCIAL SECRETARY REQUESTING A POSTPONEMENT, HOWEVER, RESULTED

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IN NO MORE THAN A SHORT DELAY IN THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS WHILE THE DC GROUP CONSIDERED THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S REQUEST. 3. THE FORMATION OF A PROVINCIAL GIUNTA IN AVELLINO HAD BEEN HAMPERED BY POOR RELATIONS AMONG THE CENTER-LEFT COALITION PARTNERS. DC-PSDI COOPERATION HAS BEEN STYMIED BY A PERSONAL FEUD BETWEEN THEIR TWO LEADERS. PSDI LEADER FRANCESCO SULLO IS A FORMER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT WHOSE POSITION IN THAT PARTY WAS SABOTAGED BY HIS EX-PROTEGE, AND CURRENT AVELLINO DC BOSS, CIRIACO DE MITA. TIES WITH THE PSI HAVE BEEN STRAINED BY RECENT SOCIALIST DEMANDS FOR A REDIMENSIONING OF POWER WITHIN THE CENTER-LEFT COALITION. THE PRICE THE PSI HAD ORIGINALLY DEMANDED FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE AVELLINO PROVINCIAL GIUNTA WAS ITS PRESIDENCY. IN THE DC-PSI GIUNTA, WHICH IS GOVERNING WITH ONLY A ONE-VOTE MAJORITY ON THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, THE PSI COULD HAVE HAD VIRTUAL VETO POWER OVER GIUNTA DECISIONS. A DC ACCOMMODATION WITH THE PCI, THEN, COULD ALSO BE A MEANS OF CHECKING SOCIALIST POWER WITHIN THE CENTER-LEFT COALITION. HOROWITZ

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